(b) The main reasons affecting the execution of hydroelectric projects include delays in environment and forest clearance placement of orders, supply of equipment, changes in scope of works, delay in acquisition of land, and in execution of civil works and, at times, resource constraints.

(c) The excavation and masonary/concreting works of the dams at the Upper Indravati Projects are in progress. Excavation of the link channel and concreting of power house are also in progress

Two units of the Upper Kolab (Stage-I) Project have already commissioned. All civil works except lining of pressure shaft and erection of pen stock, for the third unit, have been completed. Generator barrel concreting for this unit is in progress.

Solar power station at Village Mathania in Jodhpur

3330. SHRI B. L. PANWAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) when Government propose to commence the work for the construction of Solar Power Station at village Mathania in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan for which announcement has been made ;

(b) what is the anticipated cost of this Solar Power Station;

(c) by when this Solar Power Station will start supplying solar energy; and

(d) whether this project will be undertaken keeping in view future possibility of expansion in view of the availability of maximum solar energy in that area?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) The project report for installing the Solar Thermal Power plant near Jodhpur in Rajasthan has been sent to Planning Commission for clearance. No decision has yet been taken. The anticipated initial cost of the power plant is around Rs. 100 crores, but there will be no recurring fuel cost. The power station could start supplying power within two years after the start of construction following clearance of the project. The project can be expanded by adding more capacity of Solar Power at the same site later as needed.

Clearance of Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Power Plant

3331. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Plant (GNDTP) Stage-III has been techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority and the Punjab Pollution Control Board; and

(b) if so, what further action has been taken in the matter so far and by when the work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) The proposal in respect of the Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Plant (GNDTP) Stage-III (2x210 MW) was techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in May, 1985. Recently the Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB) have intimated that the State Pollution Control Board have conveyed their 'No Objection' subject to the setting up of these units near village Behman, Dewana at a distance of about 9.0 Kms from the existing Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Station.

THE CEA have advised the PSEB to forward a revised project feasibility report based on the new site. Work on the project could start after it is techno-economically cleard by the CEA and investment approval is accorded.

Withdrawal of levy on cement

3332. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for withdrawal of levy on cement and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government have received complaints that cement factories in Andhra

Pradesh were not supplying levy cement to the State Government; and if so, what is the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) It has been Government's policy to progressively reduce the levy obligations of the cement factories. However, no decision has been taken on lifting of levy on cement production totally.

(b) Complaints have been received from some consignees regarding short supply of levy cement by cement factories located in Andhra Pradesh. The Development Commissioner for Cement Industry has taken up the matter with the concerned cement factories to step-up despatches.

Uniformation Power Tariff

3333. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a uniform pattern of power tariff in the country;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) whether the desirability of rationalising the coal price on F.O.R. basis for all the thermal plants in the country has been considered; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not introducing such a scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the power to fix tariff for supply of electricity to various categories of consumers vests in the State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments.

(c) and (d) Presently, there is no proposal to make any change in the existing arrangements for fixing the price of various grades of coal.

Request of Punjab Government for setting up a Gas Based Power Plant

3334. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received a request from the Punjab Government for setting up of a gas-based power plant in the State;

(b) if so, whether the plea has been found to be just and deserved acceptance;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the distance between the place suggested by the Punjab Government for setting up the project and the one in Haryana where a similar project has been cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) No project proposal has been received from the Punjab Government in regard to setting up of a gas-based power plant in the State.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Unauthorised agents in Connaught Place Post Office

3335. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some unauthorised agents are working in the Post Office at 'A' Block, Connaught Place, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that with the connivance of postal employees these agents extract big amount from the foreigners and businessmen for clearance of parcels and booking of money orders and other postal services; and

(c) whether Government have received any complaints in this regard during the last six months; if so, what are the details thereof and action taken thereon?